



COLORADO
Department of
Regulatory Agencies
Division of Insurance

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Oct. 10, 2014

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Medicare Open Enrollment: Oct. 15 - Dec. 7

Resources available to help Coloradans with Medicare questions

Make your Medicare decisions easier. Trained counselors ready to help during open enrollment.

DENVER — The Colorado Division of Insurance (DOI), part of the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA), reminds Coloradans that the Medicare open enrollment period begins on October 15 and runs through December 7. During open enrollment, counselors from the Colorado State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), a DOI program, are available as a resource to help make Medicare information easier to understand.

Medicare open enrollment is an ideal time to review your plan and determine if it is the right fit for you. During this period, you have an opportunity to make changes to your Medicare Advantage (Medicare Part C) or Medicare prescription drug coverage (Medicare part D) for the following year. You can also switch between Original Medicare (Part A and or Part B) and a Medicare Advantage Plan.

How to get through it all? “You don’t have to do it alone,” said Kimberly Latta, SHIP Program Director. “There are a number of resources for guidance and answers.”

- Get one-on-one help from Colorado SHIP counselors, who specialize in Medicare questions. SHIP helps people eligible for or enrolled in Medicare with questions about health insurance. For free Medicare counseling at the SHIP site nearest you, call **1-888-696-7213**.
- Visit www.Medicare.gov/find-a-plan to compare your current coverage to the options available in your area. You can also enroll on this website.
- Call **1-800-MEDICARE** (1-800-633-4227 / TTY, 1-877-486-2048) 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to find out more about your coverage options.
- Review the “Medicare & You 2015” **handbook**, mailed in September to people with Medicare.

“Because the open enrollment period is the busiest time of the year for counselors to field questions about Medicare, we recommend that consumers start exploring their options now, prior to the October 15 start date, and plan to make the best use of their time with counselors by having all of their information ready before they call,” Latta said.

As an example, Latta noted that Medicare offers a comparison tool for prescription drug coverage in each plan. To take full advantage of this tool, you need to have *all* of your prescription drug information: the names of medications, dosage and frequency. Look for the details on your prescription bottles or packages.

Go to www.dora.colorado.gov/ship for more information.

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The [Colorado Division of Insurance](http://www.dora.colorado.gov) regulates the insurance industry and assists consumers and other stakeholders with insurance issues. [DORA](http://www.dora.colorado.gov) is dedicated to preserving the integrity of the marketplace and is committed to promoting a fair and competitive business environment in Colorado. Consumer protection is our mission.